In the Claims:

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claims 1-17 (Cancelled)

18. (Previously Presented) An automated provisioning system for enabling activation of users and services in a distributed electronic system, which provisioning system is adapted to use an LDAP or X.500 compatible directory enabled information repository comprising one or more directories;

the system further comprising a service manager interfacing with the information repository and components of the distributed electronic system, and

the information repository comprises a scalable data model; and

the service manager is adapted to log on to a directory and interacts therewith to create, delete, amend or search for information in the information repository,

wherein the service manager interacts, through a plurality of interfaces, with components and users of the distributed electronic system to enable authentication and authorization to use services running on the components such that the services can be activated.

19. (Previously Presented) An automated provisioning system according to Claim 18, wherein the data model comprises domains, users, services, profiles and infrastructure.

20. (Previously Presented) An automated provisioning system according to Claim 18, wherein a subscriber uses an automated on-line subscriber self-registration system to subscribe to new services, or to modify or unsubscribe from existing services via a user interface, in which the user interface interacts with the service manager.

21. (Previously Presented) An automated provisioning system according to Claim 20 for use in a cable TV system, wherein the system permits subscription to a multitude of services.

22. (Previously Presented) An automated provisioning system according to Claim 19, wherein users are provided with profiles defining services and components available to the user, each user having at least one profile.

23. (Previously Presented) An automated provisioning system according to Claim 22 in which the profile comprises a base profile, which base profile describes the core characteristics of the user.

24. (Previously Presented) An automated provisioning system according to Claim 23, in which the profile further comprises an extension profile, which extension profile represents refinements to services available to the user.

25. (Previously Presented) An automated provisioning system according to Claim 24 in which the profile comprises a combination of one or more base profiles and extension profiles.

26. (Previously Presented) An automated provisioning system according to Claim 18, in which the system provides a trigger mechanism for the creation, deletion or modification of information outside of the directory server thus enabling information distribution to billing systems, databases and workflow management.

27. (Previously Presented) An automated provisioning system according to Claim 18, wherein requests, initiated via a user interface, are made to the service manager by a plurality of servers.

28. (Currently Amended) An automated provisioning system according to Claim 27, wherein the system comprises ~~one or more of~~ a plurality of object request brokers and a plurality of service managers.

29. (Previously Presented) An automated provisioning system according to Claim 20, wherein the user interfaces comprise web interfaces adapted to use servlets to create a separate thread of execution for each individual request.

30. (Previously Presented) An automated provisioning system according to Claim 18, wherein the system is provided with a directory communication layer adapted to enable enables the service manager to work with multiple directories.

31. (Previously Presented) An automated provisioning system according to Claim 18, wherein the service manager permits abstraction of the services away from the infrastructure of the distributed electronic system;

32. (Previously Presented) An automated provisioning system for enabling activation of users and services in a distributed electronic system, which provisioning system is adapted to use an LDAP or X.500 compatible directory enabled information repository, the system comprising

a service manager adapted to interact with the information repository and components of a distributed electronic system,
the information repository comprises a scalable data model,

wherein the service manager is adapted to log on to a directory and interacts therewith to create, delete, amend or search for information in the information repository and

wherein the data model comprises domains, which domains comprise object types of users, services, profiles and infrastructure, such that a user is assigned to a profile, which

profile is adapted to access a plurality of services, which services run on infrastructure,

and wherein the data model comprises further objects, which further objects are configuration objects for intercommunicating between said object types of users, services, profiles and infrastructure, which configuration objects comprise

a profile service configuration object, a user service configuration object and a service infrastructure configuration object,

wherein a user service configuration object is adapted to configure use of the service when associated with a particular user,

a profile service configuration object is adapted to configure aspects of the service when associated with a particular profile and

a service infrastructure configuration object is adapted to configure aspects of the service when associated with a particular piece of infrastructure.

33. (Previously Presented) An automated provisioning system according to Claim 32, in which a user is assigned a plurality of profiles which profiles comprise a plurality of services.

34. (Previously Presented) An automated provisioning system according to Claim 32, wherein the domain contains sub-organizations.

35. (Previously Presented) An automated provisioning system according to Claim 33, wherein the domain contains sub-organizations.